

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/997,773

Examiner

Tadesse Hailu

Applicant(s)

LOYENS ET AL.

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the AMENDMENTS entered October 1, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-28,30-38 and 40-47.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some\*   c) ☐ None   of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance**

1. This Office Action is in response to the AMENDMENT entered October 1, 2007 for the above patent application number.
2. The pending claims 1-28, 30-38, and 40-47 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The examiner has carefully considered the claims 1-28, 30-38, and 40-47. As given rejection in the previous Office action (March 29, 2007), the prior art of records (Roberge et al., Guerrero Bernhardt et al, Chittu et al, Janes et al, Lindberg et al, ) teach most of the claimed limitations/ elements of the above claims. However, currently, the claims (independent claims 1, 11, 18, 22, 28, 38, and 43 are amended by the applicant to include limitations that are not suggested or described by the prior art of records. As recited in claim 1, the limitation that is not suggested or described in the prior art of records reads in part "... wherein multiple sub-nodes represent database classifiers of database objects and a plurality of sub-nodes in the multiple hierarchy levels represent the same database classifier representing label having associated indexed, homogenous attributes of parts and each indexed, homogenous attribute represents a heterogeneous section of the parts sliced across the attributes of the parts. The remaining independent claims substantially recite similar limitation.

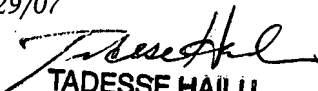
Thus, prior art neither renders obvious nor anticipates the combination of claimed elements in light of the specification.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### CONCLUSION

4. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the patent application information retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published application may be obtained from either Private –PAIR or Public-PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private-PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, please see [pair-direct.uspto.gov](http://pair-direct.uspto.gov) web site. Should you have questions regarding access to the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Tadesse Hailu, whose telephone number is (571) 272-4051. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 10:30 – 7:00 ET. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, HONG STEPHEN S (SPE), can be reached at (571) 272-4124 Art Unit 2173.

*Examiner Tadesse Hailu*  
*Art Unit 2173 – Operator Interface*  
*11/29/07*

  
**TADESSE HAILU**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**